The Future of American Commerce

By HON. O. P. AUSTIN,

Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, Treasury Department, United States Government.

WHAT of the future? What is the promise of this magnificent country of ours, this land of plenty, where are now produced more of the requirements of life than in any other land, and which is to become a perfect unit through this addition of tropical territory, to give us the one class of materials in which we have been lacking in the past?

In my mind's eye I see a great, a wonderful development, far beyond that before which the world now stands in amazement.

I see Niagara and countless smaller waterfalls furnishing electricity to be carried by wire to every city and hamlet and farm, to be used for light and heat and power, in manufacturing, and for transportation on rivers and canals and railways and roads.

I see a great canal connecting the two oceans, and putting our eastern and western shores in close water communication and our great ports in direct touch with the markets of the whole world.

I see another ship canal connecting the great lakes with the Atlantic with ocean vessels landing at the docks of Cleveland and Chicago and Milwaukee and Duluth, and making the greatest producing section of the whole world a great ocean frontage.

I see another canal connecting the lakes with the Mississippi river, and a great sysem of light-draft steamers and barges carrying the products of that great valley to the ocean steamship upon the lakes or the Gulf of Mexico, as convenience of location may determine.

I see an American cable giving us facilities for instant communication with our islands of the Pacific and the Orient, and those islands supplying us with hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of their products in exchange.

I see the islands of the Gulf of Mexico one by one knocking at our doors and coming under the American flag and furnishing us through open doors their tropical products to mingle with those of the islands of the Pacific.

I see a great railway line extending from Alaska at the north to Argentina at the south, connecting the railway systems of the two continents and bringing the great markets of that continent into closer relation with our own.

I see a steady growth of American influence and a development of closer commercial relations with our neighbors on the north and on the south.

I see a magnificent fleet of steamships, controlled by American capital and genius, and many of them flying the American flag, penetrating every sea, carrying American goods to every continent and every clime, and sending them to the interior of every country by American engines, in American cars, and upon American rails.

I see the product of the American farm and factory in every land throughout the civilized world, and with this accomplishment, increased prosperity for American producers and manufacturers, and increased happiness among all classes of American citizens.

Christian Tendencies in the Schools

By PROF. T. A. MOTT,

Superintendent of Public Schools, Richmond, Indiana.

THE best period of human life is childhood. It is the richest and largest. It has most sympathies, the most capacities, the most pleasure of any time between birth and old age.

IF THE PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS ARE TO TAKE ROOT IN THE LIFE OF OUR PEOPLE, THE WORK MUST BE BEGUN IN THE SCHOOLS.

The true warp and web of Christian character and faith are necessarily wrought out in the school period of life. Ideas cannot become the permanent possession of the world unless they enter in through the door of childhood. The results of child study have shown to the educational world that it is at the age of from 12 to 15, the opening period of adolescence, that the individual is most susceptible to the influence of culture and refinement. In most lives this is the time of the dawn of the real educational and religious instincts. It is the waking time of life in body, mind and heart. Now it is we find that subtle emotions are settling into dispositions, and dispositions are becoming character. The great instincts of altruism begin to be felt and to transform the soul, and there comes to the individual the great conception that life is after all not to be lived for self, but for others. There comes to the soul the instinct of subordination and sacrifice, "of being ready to die for that we should live for." It is in this period that the principles of religious character can be most surely appropriated by the life of the individual. This is the age of confirmation in the Greek, Roman and Lutheran churches. The statistics of the leading Protestant churches show that this is the age in which occur the greatest number of lasting conversions.

THE GREAT NEED OF THE COMPLEX CIVILIZATION OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, with its diversity of economical interests, its conflict of principles and the struggle for supremacy, IS CHRISTIAN MANHOOD. But the agencies for the development of this quality among the masses of the people are limited. The churches and the Sunday schools in their many lines of activity are doing much; but they have but one or two hours a week, and nearly half the children are not brought under their direct influence at all. If the principles of Christian character are to predominate in the future civilization of America, the state schools must assume the responsibility, in a measure at least, of giving to all the children that come under their charge a basis of religious education.

BREVITIES OF FUN.

Tess—"The material in my new gown is very pretty, but it needs something to improve the shape of of it." Jess—"Why not let some other girl wear it?"—Philadelphia Press.

Two Points of View.—It was in the world of business. "Who is he? What has he done?" they asked. Then again it was in the world of society. "Who's his father?" they asked—Chicago Post.

Mrs. Bjones—"Your husband, I hear, is quite versatile." Mrs. Brown-Smith—"Versatile is no name for it. Why, he can actually stay out late every night in the week and not give the same excuse twice."—Philadelphia Record.

Liable to Bite.—"Oh, George!" exclaimed the joyful mother, as she met him at the door. "Baby's got a tooth!" "I'm glad you mentioned it," replied the cautious husband; "I'll be very careful how I handle the little scamp."—Ohio State Journal.

Barnes—"Your nephew, I understand, has got through college at last?" Shedd—"Yes; and what good did it do him? I don't believe he learned a thing the whole four years. Why, man, I doubt if he could repeat the college yell."—Boston Transcript.

Paying Teller—"Sorry to say it, but there are no funds." Man at the Window"Then you mean to say that check is good for nothing?" Paying Teller—"Oh, no. I wouldn't care to go as far as that! It might be of value to you as a memorial or keepsake; but it isn't what—er—you'd call negotiable, you know."—Boston Transcript.

"Didn't you say that it was going to rain to-day?" "I did," answered the weather prophet. "But there hasn't been a sign of moisture." "I am perfectly aware of that fact. All I could do was to offer the best opinion on the subject I could arrive at. If I could accurately foretell events, I should quit working for a salary and make a fortune in the stock market."—Washington Star.

LABOR IN BERLIN.

Interesting Facts About the Toilers of the German Capital.

The yearly report of the official inspectors on the state of labor in Berlin and its suburbs of Charlottenburg, Schoneburg and Rixdorf gives the total number of persons employed in factories and workshops within this area during 1901 as 233,762, or about one-tenth of all the persons so employed in Prussia. This total includes 152,851 men, 66,440 women, 14,242 young persons of 14 to 16 years of age, and 47 children. Of the women, 23,035 are from 16 to 21 years old and 43,405 over 21 years old.

The total number of those employed in factories and workshops only increased by 1 9 per cent. during 1901, as against 10.5 per cent. in the preceding year. The number of male workers decreased by 1.3 per cent. but there was an increase of 10.1 per cent. in the number of females employed. The dullness of trade has thrown many persons out of work. Inquiries made by the inspectors in 1,236 establishments showed that in the metal and machine industries, the building, carpentering and allied trades there was a decrease of from 15,000 to 18,000 in the number of persons employed in October, 1901, as compared with October, 1900. The iron foundries dispensed with about 30 per cent. of their hands. It was calculated that in the month of November about 7,500 factory hands were out of work. Many firms have curtailed the hours of work. The workmen in the machine factories, for example, have earned on an average of 15 per cent. less than usual.

One consequence of the slackness in the labor market has been to render the housing question, especially in the northern and eastern quarters, less acute, since many persons have left Berlin in the hope of finding employment elsewhere. The complaint, however, is made that the suburb of Charlottenburg, which is largely inhabited by the well-to-do classes, puts difficulties in the way of the erection of industrial dwellings.

Economy.

In the New York office of Pierpont Morgan there is a junior clerk, the son of a millionaire, who when not otherwise employed is engaged in slicing the flaps of envelopes which have been used. The backs are preserved in pads for scribbling paper. The mail of such a house is enormous and the saving effected in this way is not inconsiderable.